E TEACHER - A BLOOMING BOON

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Introduction

We are using technology in every sphere of our lives. Then why teaching should be left behind. The age old practice of teaching that is a teacher coming to a class engaging lecture for an hour, at about the same time, chanting the canons is a regular feature of her one hour class. This all is quite boring also for the students. Few students just attend the class for the sake of attendance only. So it is really important to bring a change in the age old method of teaching. Since also now days we are experiencing that many colleges are setting up their campuses at outskirt of cities or there are few students whose colleges are in another city and have to travel such distance daily. Same is the case with teachers too. What will be situation if good education is very accessible? It is possible through e-learning and e-teaching.

Rapid changes in communication technologies nowadays, enable teachers to move from traditional face-to-face classroom activities to online classrooms, or online activities in the traditional classrooms. Using information and communication technologies (ICT) to teach students are insisted by educational systems worldwide, who gain the knowledge and skills needed for the future knowledge society.

E-Teachers

E-teachers provide instruction through computers and the Internet. E-teachers work with students and classes to teach material using computers and the Internet.

E–teaching is by way of the use of ICT in higher education, which aims mainly the independent use of technology by students. E-teaching is the instructional system of processes and activities designed according to the ICT development, characteristics, and models of e-learning, principles of formal communication, principles of e-education, principles of competence-based education system etc.

E-teachers may work as part of a formal institution, like a university, community college, or high school, or they may work on a more informal basis. Common duties of e-teachers include creating, revising and updating curricula; creating, distributing and grading assignments; corresponding with students; monitoring discussing groups; coordinating with other educators; and other duties as needed.

In e-teaching scenarios teacher activities can be broken into two major tasks of providing the content for the students and supporting communication between students and tutors. Teachers who are used to follow more traditional teaching methods so far have to pose problems. Therefore, modern teachers and e-teachers must be able to organize different types of e-learning and e-teaching scenarios. According to new demands in the teachers' professional activities and e-teaching context, the teachers' e-teaching competencies are the complex system of special roles and competencies.

Following are few ways of e-teaching:

* Web-based e-teaching.
* Classroom-based e-teaching.
* Online classroom e-teaching.
* Net-based course.
* E-teaching with streaming media technology.
* E-teaching in the hypermedia classroom.
* **E-teaching** based on the combination of the traditional classroom learning and e-learning.

Role of E-Teacher

E-teacher creates a model of cognitive functioning in the subjects/course content. She observes and examines the students' reaction, activities in e-learning and e-teaching context; she assesses the student on the basis of these reactions. She creates the plan of e-teaching, integrates tasks and outcomes, creates plan of teaching/learning content, educational means, and e-learning strategies. She organizes her own and learners' activities in e-teaching context, communication canals, selects e-teaching content and procedures. She initiates different e-resources applications and develops e-teaching/e-learning and learning curriculum creates e-teaching scenarios. She motivates the students and cooperates with learners; uses indirect e-teaching communication creates clearly and individualized feedback. She makes direction to knowledge process by the e/learning programmers, makes directions to use the other links. She monitors students' progress and problem solving through the utilization of E-teaching material. She selects, classifies, reports about learners' achievement, dynamic of progress, difficulties in e-learning materials and creates procedures to monitoring learner achievement, evaluates and assesses learning process, analyzes the norms of e-teaching, evaluates the e/teaching contents and procedures. She mediates between the content and learners, uses ICT and e-technologies to mediate in process of learner learning, moderates between of the learners in teaching process. She supports students, supports the process of cognitive difficulties resolving, and directs the learners to use specific knowledge and skills without e-teaching. She explores the possibilities of improving work, learns course content, and learns about e-education.

Advantages of Having an E-Teacher

Convenient-One of the key advantages of choosing e-learning over classroom learning is convenience. Students can learn from e-teacher whilst they are at home, in the library or on vacation. This prevents students from having to stick to a schedule and allows them to carefully manage the pace of their own learning experience.

Time efficient-E-teaching is very time efficient as it eliminates the time you would need to spend on travel, introductions and breaks for students too. Also, students might not be on the same level in terms of knowledge, speed of learning etc. E-teaching is therefore more time efficient as also students can manage their own learning experience.

Accessibility-Access to online resources, lectures and other study material 24 hours a day and 7 days a week can be seen as another major advantage. This is particularly useful to those students who need to read over the lecture slides again for revision purposes. Some professors and teachers may even tape their lectures, allowing students to listen to the entire lecture again, regardless of where they are located.

Dynamic interaction-E-Learning technologies such as Moodle allow online discussions to be generated. A teacher may ask an open question to the students in order to make them think about a certain subject matter, in preparation for a test or seminar. These online discussions can be seen as highly valuable, as this not only allows students to think carefully about the question but also allows the teacher to reflect and provide feedback to the students.

Creativity-There is no doubt that creativity is important in teaching and some argue that e-learning facilitates greater creativity as ideas, resources, knowledge, understanding and skills can be shared easily,

regardless of the location. Also, as students are more exposed to other students' ideas, there is room for new, innovative ideas to be created, which in turn can be used by the teacher to provide an example of students' work on the blog.

Tools used by E-Teachers

- **Avatars (virtual characters)**–are used for the production of specialist interactive and intelligent content in the form of virtual assistants, mentors etc.

- **Blogging tools**– are used to create blogs, mobile blogs, audio blogs (podcasts) and video blogs (v blogs).

- **Course and lesson authoring tools**– useful for the production of online lessons and courses.

- **EPSS and Help tools**– tools to performance support and online help tools.

- **E-Book tools**– useful for reading as well as creating e-books for your PC or mobile device.

- **Forms, survey and polling tools** – for creating online forms and surveys.

- **Graphics and animation tool**– used for the production of graphics, animation, pictures and for photo editing.

- **Interactivity tools**– tools for interactive e-learning

- **PDF tools**– tools for creating and viewing PDF (portable document files).

- **Podcasting tools**– tools for reading and creating podcasts as well as places to find podcasts.

- **Presentation (& streamed presentation) tools**– tools that can be used for the production of online presentations.

- **RSS tools** – tools that will help you create and read RSS feeds.

- **Simulation/demonstration/screencasting tool**– simulation and demonstration tools-aka Screencasting tools-for creating e-learning solutions.

- Testing, quizzing and game show tools–range of dedicated tools that are useful for the production of online tests, quizzes and games.

- **Video tools**– e.g., video to Flash converter tools, webcam as well as video blogging tools.

- **Web page authoring tools**– some general web authoring and site management tools, including hosted websites.

- **Webcasting and streaming media tools**– webcasting tools and software to create live, interactive web events as well as on demand streamed audio and video.

- **Other content development tools**– selection of miscellaneous tools for creating or managing the development of e-learning content solutions.

- **Attendance management software-** track student attendance, alert to parents/guardian regarding student attendance, planned and unplanned leave maintenance, connect with ID/Punch card, attendance percentage calculation, easy to use.

Microsoft Free Teaching Tools for Educator

Office 365 for Education– with office 365 teachers can conduct online classes, record them, and share with anyone who is online or offline. Teachers can also keep students informed on the track with class and group sites with SharePoint 2012 where you can share documents and collaborate on projects from any location. You can view, edit, and SharePoint and Office Web Apps. This allows teachers to create and distribute student assignments and projects.

Office Add- In for Moodle– uploading files to Moodle and making changes on a fly has never been easier. It is a time saving hassle free way for teachers to open and save Word, Excel, and Powerpoint documents to a moodle website all from within MS Office. Teachers can now manage their courses without having to flip back and forth between Office and a Web browser mankind their work faster, easier and more productive.

Microsoft Digital Literacy Curriculum-the Digital Curriculum offers three levels of coursework: Basic, Standard, and Advanced. The Basic Curriculum offers beginners an introduction to computers while the Standard Curriculum goes one step further with five e-learning modules: computer basic, the internet, productivity tools, digital lifestyles and computer security. The Advanced Curriculum goes even deeper and focuses on the use of digital information. All modules are available for both online and offline use; the Standard Curriculum is also available in over 30 languages.

Nearpod- Nearpod creates multimedia presentations with interactive features such as quizzes, videos, polls, drawing tools, and more. Nearpod enables teachers to use their tablets to manage content on students' devices, combining presentation collaboration and real-time assessment tools in one integrated solution.

OneNote- OneNote is a digital notebook that lets you store all your valuable class or project knowledge in one place. Whether your information is text, pictures, or in a paper folder, it can be digitized, organized, and easily accessed from OneNote. You are productive because everything you need on a subject is at your fingertips. You will be able to build learning connections with other teachers and your students for the ultimate school experience.

Skype- Skype is a free and easy way for teachers to open up their classroom. Using Skype in the classroom, you can meet new people, talk to experts, share ideas and create amazing learning experiences with teachers from around the world. Join a community of innovators! Skype in the classroom allows you to collaborate on exciting projects with educators around the world. Share your own teaching ideas with the community and search for ideas or speakers on any subject. With over 1,700 projects already online, you'll find unlimited inspiration to refresh your lessons. Skype in the classroom is a fast, fun way to create exciting and memorable lessons for your students. Join thousands of teachers already using the service, and get immediate access to dozens of new cultures, languages and ideas. It's very simple. Once you've created a profile to set out your interests, specialties and location, you can set up your own projects and appeal for classes, partner teachers or guest speakers and, if you like, offer your own services to others. Browse through projects or search by keyword to quickly find a good match. When you've found someone you'd like to connect with, you can add them as a Skype contact. There's also a directory of resources to help you share inspiring videos, links and tips.

Google Tools

Google Drives- By using Google drive one take your classroom paperless, collaborate, and you can share easily with this one stop for all of your documents.

GoogleDoc/Spreadsheets/Slides- Google Docs brings your documents to life with smart editing and styling tools to help you easily format text and paragraphs. Choose from hundreds of fonts; add links, images, and drawings. All for free. Access, create, and edit your documents wherever you go from your phone, tablet, or computer even when there's no connection. With Google Docs, everyone can work together in the same document at the same time. All your changes are automatically saved as you type. You can even use revision history to see old versions of the same document, sorted by date and who made the change. Explore and get inspired by images, quotes, and text from Google searches, without leaving the Android app. Docs is ready to go when you are. Simply create a document through your browser or download the app for your mobile device.

Google Forms- Plan your next camping trip, manage event registrations, whip up a quick poll, collect email addresses for a newsletter, create a pop quiz, and much more with Google Forms. Use your own photo or logo, and Forms will pick just the right colors to complete your own unique form, or choose from a set of curated themes to set the tone. Choose from a bunch of question options, from multiple choices

to dropdowns to a linear scale. Forms are responsive, so that means it's easy (and beautiful) to make, edit, and respond to forms on screens big and small. Responses to your surveys are neatly and automatically collected in Forms, with real time response info and charts. Or, take your data further by viewing it all in sheets.

Google Groups- Organize with favorites and folders, choose to follow along via email, and quickly find unread posts. Use rich-text editing to customize your posts with fonts, colors, and images. Use photos, nicknames, and automatic translations to share your thoughts with the world. Keyboard shortcuts and a streamlined design mean you won't spend time waiting to read and get involved. Access Groups from anywhere using your mobile device.

GOOGLE+-Create communities, host and participate in hangouts by using Google+. Bring virtual guests to your classroom; connect with just about anyone you choose.

BLOGGER- Have your students create and maintain blogs, or make one for your own purposes.

Students Attendance Recorder Software 7.0- This software offers a solution for users who want an easy virtual method of keeping a record of student attendance. The user friendly interface allows you to select a class and a date from the drop down menus at the top. The images of each student in the selected class are displayed with name and status through options; present, late or absent. There is a box for addition of any notes. A click on the save button will record that days status for the class. To view records for previous dates, you simply choose the class and the date from the top down menus. One click on the setup button will open the window for entering/editing class or students names and images.

E-teachers should be very comfortable and up-to-date with technology and trends in education. Understanding how to communicate online and how to use internet-based tools in an education environment is critical to succeeding as an e-teacher. An educator has to determine how technology will be used in the classroom, and, once it is, how it will impact student learning. A significant element in such decision is based on the teacher's understanding of how their students learn. Thus, e-teachers cannot be viewed merely as occasional guides standing on the sidelines of the e-learning process. Rather, there role is vitally important in implementing the wide range of possibilities enabled by the new technologies. Nevertheless, their roles are not always self-evident. Materializing the potential of the technologies in e-learning/e-teaching setting does not mean just transplanting the practices of traditional classroom encounters to the technological environment. Both students and teachers need to be trained to become proficient computer literates, and support systems. Technologies should not be implemented by any means just because they are considered to be innovative in nature.